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statesmen than to our men of letters. His admirers cannot expect more than "honorable mention" for his best literary productions. His was not a creative, or dominating influence in American literature. Whereas in the accomplishment of great reforms in government and politics, his political wisdom and foresight, his intrepidity and persistence in the face of almost overwhelming opposition, and his success are unquestionable, and his power and influence for good in our national life great and enduring. Mr. Curtis proved himself one of those rare men who early perceive the need of reform and then forthwith resolutely set about educating the public and the leaders of the people with a view to securing the needed reforms.

The present volume is in the main a record, by an intimate friend, of Mr. Curtis' endeavors to right the wrongs of the slave, of his faithful participation in the practical, and to him often disagreeable, work of practical politics, of his course as an "Independent," and of his great work of promoting Civil Service Reform. We learn here how hard it was for him to bear up under the storm of abuse and revilings that came upon him when he broke away from his old party moorings in 1884. After this date, however, he became the recognized leader of the reform element in New York State and national politics. He interested himself, particularly as editor of *Harper's Weekly*, in many questions—the tariff, the currency, foreign matters and the relation of Congress to the President—but the major part of his time and energies he gave up to the prosecution of Civil Service Reform. The splendid work which he accomplished in this reform is shown in the remarkable progress, which we are every day witnessing, of this movement in municipal, State and national politics and governments. Mr. Cary has written his biography in an easy flowing style, and wherever possible makes Mr. Curtis tell his own story by giving numerous letters and extracts from his writings.

F. I. HERRIOTT.

Stuart, Ia.

The Organization of Charities : being a report of the Sixth Section of the International Congress of Charities, Correction and Philanthropy. Chicago, June, 1893. Edited with an introduction by D. C. GILMAN. Pp. xxxii, 400. Price, \$1.50. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1894.

This second volume, though the first to appear, of the proceedings of the International Congress of Charities, is described by President Gilman in the title to the introduction as a panorama of charitable work in many lands. The topic assigned to this sixth section of the

congress was the organization and affiliation of charities, and preventive work among the poor. The papers, however, deal for the most part with the problems of outdoor relief, and the way these problems are being met, especially in England and Germany. After the introduction appears the admirable oration by Professor Francis G. Peabody, with which the congress was opened. It represents the highest plane of American thought upon "the Problem of Charity."

Following this is an abstract of the discussions which took place at the four meetings of the section. The subjects discussed were the Demarcation of the Field of Voluntary Charitable Work, Friendly Visiting, the Relation of Public to Private Charity, Labor Colonies, and Relief in Work.

Of the thirty-five papers which make up the body of the volume, nine are of American origin, nine are from the Continent of Europe, while seventeen papers present the aims and methods of relief work in Great Britain. Nearly all the writers are officially connected with the work which they describe, and some of them are eminent authorities in the literature of charity.

Among the more noteworthy of the American contributions the reader will find an account of the methods and results of the work of the New York State Charities Aid Association by its leading spirit, Miss Louisa Lee Schuyler; a compilation by Mr. Alfred T. White, of the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities, of the organized efforts in some twenty-five American cities "for the temporary employment of men and women out of work where such employment is at once relief and labor test;" a suggestive paper on Friendly Visiting by Mrs. Roger Wolcott, of Boston, and a vigorous protest by Professor Amos G. Warner, against the too prevalent custom of subsidizing private charities from public funds.

Charity in France and Belgium is presented in an extended treatment, historical and descriptive, by M. Hubert Valleroux. He complains of the tendency on the part of the government "to replace the ancient form of charity, done by the faithful with their money and for the safety of their souls, by a charity done by the administration with the money of taxpayers and for electoral purposes."

Following this is a statistical paper on Italian Charities, by Signor Egisto Rossi, who expounds and praises the important law of 1890, which aims to correct the abuse of endowed charities by bringing all of them under governmental management.

Five German contributors treat of the Elberfeld System of Poor Relief as exemplified in the cities from which they severally write. Dr. Victor Böhmert, of Dresden, gives special attention to the private relief societies, which are unusually strong in his city, and their

co-operation with the public system through the Municipal Bureau of Information for Poor Relief and Charity. Another paper by the same author tells of the *Volkswohl*, a successful organization for the social improvement of working people. A brief paper from St. Petersburg closes the reports from continental Europe.

The numerous contributions from England, written for the most part by men and women who are connected with charity organization committees or the Poor Law administration in representative districts, were secured through Mr. C. S. Loch, of the London Charity Organization Society. This perhaps accounts for the plain scientific manner of treatment and the progressive ideas which characterize the papers.

One of the principal topics running through the volume is the much discussed problem of public outdoor relief. The most that English and American contributors say for it is that it sometimes seems to be necessary. Its free use is found to increase the poverty which it is supposed to relieve, and progress is largely measured by the extent to which it has been abolished. In continental Europe on the other hand we find a general lack of confidence in private relief agencies. Endowed charities and private societies are being brought under public regulation to prevent their abuse. At the same time the German cities that have adopted the Elberfeld system of public outdoor relief find it eminently satisfactory. This difference is well brought out in the present volume. The explanation of the difference has never been made entirely clear, and to these detailed and authoritative reports from the various fields of activity one naturally looks for new light upon this interesting question. As might be expected, the explanation is composite. In the first place, undoubtedly the Elberfeld system is of a higher order than any English or American system of public relief inasmuch as it enlists in the service a large body of public-spirited citizens and insures to the recipient of relief individual treatment by one who may be expected to be familiar with his condition. On the other hand it seems to be only in Anglo-Saxon countries that private charity has become sufficiently organized or sufficiently generous to be depended upon to meet the necessities of the poor. Again, public poor relief in Germany, in common with other branches of municipal administration, enjoys a freedom from the corrupting influence of party politics which seems quite beyond the reach especially of American administration. Another cause for the difference between German and American experience in public relief comes from the prevalence in the older country of ideas of frugality which are unknown here, at least in the domain of public expenditure. German almoners understand that their resources are limited, and being accustomed to wide-spread poverty, they expect small grants to suffice, but

the average American regards the public treasury as a boundless resource, and is pretty sure to think that the particular cases of poverty with which he is acquainted should be relieved with bounty.

In German cities placing the power of granting relief in the hands of honorary district visitors has usually resulted in a decrease in the amount of the grants. A similar plan in an American city would seem likely to result in an increased expenditure as dangerous to the permanent welfare of the poor as it would be burdensome to the taxpayer. German public relief has never become so bountiful as to need general curtailment in the interest of the poor themselves. Until it does German writers will fail to appreciate the American objection to the Elberfeld system. The discussion of Friendly Visiting at the Chicago Congress reached the conclusion (page 28) "that the friendly visitor is a failure when allowed to dispense alms." The best service in imparting strength to the weaker members of society is undoubtedly done by visitors who are not almoners, and where such visiting is combined with adequate relief from private sources, granted after friendly but expert investigation and council, we may justly claim to have a system of outdoor relief in advance of that of Elberfeld.

D. I. GREEN.

The Meaning of History, and Other Historical Pieces. By FREDERIC HARRISON. Pp. viii, 482. Price, \$2.25. New York: Macmillan & Co., 1894.

These essays which Mr. Harrison has just given the public in connected form are not new. Nearly all of them have served as lectures or as magazine articles, and several were published a generation ago.

The greater part of the volume is devoted to a series of discussions of "The City: Ancient, Mediaeval, Modern and Ideal," with suggestive studies of Athens, Rome, Constantinople, Paris and London, with especial attention to the recent transformations which those cities have undergone. A "Survey of the Thirteenth Century" finds a place beside an essay on "What the Revolution of 1789 did," followed by a pointed comparative study of "France in 1789 and 1889." A discourse on "Palæographic Purism" adds spice to the collection.

The title of the volume, however, derives its significance mainly from the first four essays: "The Use of History;" "The Connection of History;" "Some Great Books of History;" and "The History Schools." As these have all been before the public for years, they need no detailed review at this time. It will be more in point to try to gather what light the essays, taken together, throw upon the meaning and use of history.